

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

NEW FORMS OF BIRDS FROM PANAMA AND
COLOMBIA.

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE.

The following races have been distinguished during study of collections made during two recent field trips, the first in Colombia in company with M. A. Carriker, Jr., and the second in the Pearl Islands of Panamá where J. P. E. Morrison of the U. S. National Museum was my companion.

Family ARDEIDAE.

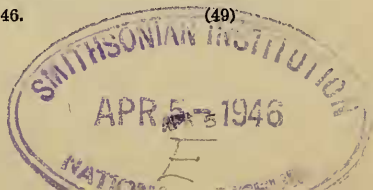
Nyctanassa violacea caliginis subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Nyctanassa violacea violacea*¹ but with thicker, heavier bill; adult decidedly darker gray. Similar to *Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti*² in size of bill but decidedly darker in color.

Description.—Type, U. S. National Museum No. 376,007, ♂ adult, from Isla San José, Archipiélago de las Perlas, Panamá, February 20, 1944, collected by A. Wetmore and J. P. E. Morrison, original No. 11,998. Throat, head, except as noted beyond, and upper hindneck black; a broad streak from beneath eye back across auricular region pure white; central part of crown broadly white, the tips of the feathers washed with pinkish buff; long nuchal plumes white, edged with black at base; underparts neutral gray, a little paler on under tail-coverts; under wing-coverts deep neutral gray; hindneck and sides of neck deep neutral gray; feathers of back, and scapulars dusky neutral gray centrally, margined broadly with neutral gray; wing-coverts dusky neutral gray, margined widely with light neutral gray; longer inner greater coverts and inner secondaries with an indistinct wash of dark ivy green on the outer webs towards the tips; primaries slate color; edge of wing pinkish buff along alula and distally, and broadly white between these points; rump deep neutral gray; rectrices dark neutral gray, the central pair with a faint wash of olivaceous black. Bill dull black, horn color at tip and on base of mandibular rami;

¹ *Ardea violacea* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 143 (South Carolina).

² *Nyctanassa violacea bancrofti* Huey, Condor, vol. 29, May 15, 1927, p. 167 (Scammon Lagoon, Baja California).



front of tarsus and top of toes and nails blackish, the feet elsewhere dull buffy brown (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Males (12 specimens), wing 282–299 (290.1), tail 101.7–116.9 (108.7), culmen from base 67.6–81.3 (73.8), tarsus 87.7–101.3 (92.1), depth of bill at nostril 22.2–25.1 (23.4) mm.

Females (2 specimens), wing 288–291 (289.5), tail 101.1–109.0 (105.0), culmen from base 73.7–74.7 (74.2), tarsus 96.5–97.4 (97.0), depth of bill at nostril 22.2–23.5 (22.9) mm.

Type, male, wing 284, tail 109.4, culmen from base 73.3, tarsus 94.7, depth of bill at nostril 23.4 mm.

Range.—Panamá (Balboa, Taboga Island, Obaldía) including the Pearl Islands (San José, El Rey, Saboga) to the Pacific coast of Colombia (Bahía de Cueva) and Ecuador (Isla de Jambelí and Vaquería).

Remarks.—Preliminary comparisons of our specimens taken on San José indicated that they were darker in color, but I was uncertain as to the stability of this character until I had examined the series in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy from Isla El Rey (San Miguel) and Saboga, and found that they were likewise darker. It is interesting to observe that this tendency toward darker color is in the direction of the very dark *N. v. pauper* of the Galápagos Islands. Birds from the Pacific side of Panamá likewise belong with the new race which extends to the mainland of the Pacific coast from Panamá to Colombia and Ecuador. For the privilege of examining specimens from the two latter countries I am indebted to Robert Cushman Murphy.

Family RALLIDAE.

Aramides cajanea morrisoni subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Aramides cajanea latens* Bangs and Penard³ but with gray of hindneck darker, and also grayer, less brownish; back, wing-coverts and scapulars darker, more olivaceous green.

Description.—Type, U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 376,059, ♂, San José Island, Archipiélago de las Perlas, May 21, 1944, collected by J. P. E. Morrison (orig. no. 160). Forehead and forepart of crown deep mouse gray; posterior half of crown and nape indistinctly olive brown; hindneck and adjacent area of upper back slightly darker than neutral gray; rest of back, scapulars and tertials brownish olive; rump, upper tail-coverts, tail, flanks, abdomen and under tail-coverts dull black, with a wash of olive-brown on rump; primaries and secondaries dull russet, tipped with sepia; outer wing-coverts russet, inner ones brownish olive; sides of head light mouse gray, with an indistinct streak of mouse gray covering lower eyelid and extending to upper edge of gape; chin and throat whitish; foreneck and sides of neck between neutral gray and light neutral gray; breast and sides sayal brown; tibia fuscous black; under wing-coverts sayal brown, barred heavily with dusky neutral gray. Anterior half of bill varying from mignonette green to Krönberg's green, basal part

³ *Aramides cajanea latens* Bangs and Penard, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., vol. 62, April, 1918, p. 41 (San Miguel = Isla El Rey, Archipiélago de las Perlas, Panamá).

orange cinnamon on culmen, elsewhere honey-yellow; legs varying from vinaceous-rufous to hazel, claws fuscous (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Males (six specimens), wing 165–179 (174.3), tail 54.1–64.2 (58.3), culmen from base 46.8–58.7 (52.5), tarsus 64.2–71.0 (67.6) mm.

Females (six specimens), wing 161–173 (166.5), tail 54.5–56.8 (54.9), culmen from base 48.0–51.9 (49.8), tarsus 62.7–70.0 (66.5) mm.

Type, male, wing 176, tail 54.1, culmen from base 56.0, tarsus 70.8 mm.

Range.—San José and Pedro González Islands, Archipiélago de las Perlas, Panamá.

Remarks.—The series of birds from the two outermost islands, the basis of the present description, has been compared directly with the original specimens of *latens* in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. The differences while not extensive are definite, and carry through all of the specimens. The characters marking the subspecies *latens* and *morrisoni* from *Aramides cajanea cajanea*, while warranting the separation, are not great. In size the two former average smaller but with a definite overlap among the larger individuals. The brown on the pileum is slightly duller and grayer, and the greenish olive brown on the back slightly duller. Below most specimens are slightly duller reddish brown, with the foreneck and sides of neck, duller gray, though some individuals may not be distinguished on these characters.

Aramides c. latens is recorded definitely on the island of El Rey, the type locality, and *morrisoni* on San José and Pedro González.

These rails are recorded also from Viveros where, according to Rendahl, Bovallius secured a specimen. It seems probable that this record belongs with *latens* as the island is adjacent to El Rey.

The form is named for Dr. J. P. E. Morrison of the U. S. National Museum in recognition of his work with birds during the investigations.

Family TYRANNIDAE.

Elaenia flavogaster silvicultrix subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Elaenia flavogaster pallididorsalis* Aldrich ⁴ but clearer, brighter yellow on lower breast and abdomen; clearer, less brownish gray on upper breast and foreneck.

Description.—Type, U. S. National Museum no. 376,315, ♂, from Isla San José, Archipiélago de las Perlas, Panamá, collected February 18, 1944, by A. Wetmore and J. P. E. Morrison (original no. 11,980). Crown feathers dark grayish olive centrally, margined with deep grayish olive, the latter color predominating on forehead; a concealed central crown patch of white; hindneck grayish olive; back and scapulars somewhat grayer than citrine-drab; rump and upper tail-coverts citrine drab; lesser wing-coverts citrine-drab with chaetura drab centers; middle and

⁴ *Elaenia flavogastra pallididorsalis* Aldrich, Scient. Publ. Cleveland Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 7, August 31, 1937, p. 106 (Paracoté, Montijo Bay, one mile south of mouth of Río Ángulo, Veraguas, Panamá).

greater coverts chaetura drab, tipped broadly with pale olive-buff forming two wing bars, primaries and secondaries chaetura drab, the inner primaries and outer secondaries edged externally with dark olive-buff, and the inner secondaries broadly with dull white; rectrices dull hair brown, edged externally with deep olive-buff; throat whitish; sides of head deep olive-gray; foreneck and upper breast smoke gray becoming grayish olive on sides; lower breast and abdomen primrose yellow becoming dark olive-buff on the sides and flanks; under wing-coverts primrose yellow, the outer ones marked with chaetura drab centrally; bend of wing primrose yellow. Bill dusky neutral gray, becoming grayish olive on base of mandible; tarsus and toes blackish brown (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Males (19 specimens), wing 76.5–84.8 (80.2), tail 65.7–78.1 (72.5), culmen from base 12.8–14.7 (13.6), tarsus 18.0–20.8 (19.9) mm.

Females (16 specimens), wing 72.5–82.2 (77.8), tail 65.7–74.0 (70.5), culmen from base 12.5–13.6 (13.1), tarsus 17.5–20.3 (19.2) mm.

Type, male, wing 80.6, tail 72.5, culmen from base 13.6, tarsus 19.9 mm.

Range.—Archipiélago de las Perlas, Panamá (specimens examined from El Rey, Saboga, Pedro González and San José).

Remarks.—The differences that mark this race are easily evident when the island birds are compared with those of the mainland. The brighter colors of the new form stand out as clearly in the specimens collected 40 years ago by W. W. Brown as they do in our fresh material.

Family MNIOTILTIDAE.

Dendroica petechia chrysendeta subsp. nov.

Characters.—Male, similar to *Dendroica petechia erithachorides* Baird⁵ but brown of head and forepart of body decidedly darker, and extended farther down the foreneck; the breast streakings averaging heavier and darker, merging with the brown of the head area; the yellow below averaging deeper and brighter; and the edgings on the middle and greater wing coverts wider and brighter yellow. Similar also to *D. p. paraguanae*⁶ but brown on the foreneck heavier, extending farther down the foreneck, with less tendency toward streaking; chin and throat darker; yellow on middle and greater wing-coverts more extensive.

Description.—Type, U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 369,925, ♂ adult, Laguna de Tucacas, Puerto López, Guajira, Colombia, April 23, 1941, A. Wetmore and M. A. Carriker, Jr. (orig. no. 11561). Entire crown and upper part of hindneck very dark chestnut; throat and foreneck chestnut, shading over on the sides of the head into the much darker color of the crown; feathers of head lemon chrome basally, but this color completely concealed except where it shows indistinctly along the center of the throat;

⁵ *Dendroica erithachorides* (typographical error for *erithachorides*, as indicated on same page and in index) Baird, Rep. Pac. R. R. Surv., vol. 9, 1858, p. 283 (Cartagena, Colombia).

⁶ *Dendroica petechia paraguanae* Phelps and Gilliard, Amer. Mus. Nov., no. 1153, November 26, 1941, p. 10 (La Boca, Adicora, Paraguaná Peninsula, Estado Falcón, Venezuela).

feathers of ear-coverts edged narrowly and indistinctly with sulphine yellow, with faint indication of this same color in nasal tufts and below the rictus; brown of head forming an extensive and sharply delimited hood, covering the entire head, and on the lower surface extending down over most of the foreneck; upper surface between sulphine yellow and citrine, with the rump brighter, nearer sulphine yellow than the back; remiges blackish brown, the primaries and secondaries externally edged with citrine, this changing distally on the secondaries to strontian yellow; tertials with a wide edging of yellowish citrine; lesser wing-coverts yellowish citrine; middle and greater coverts widely edged with strontian yellow; rectrices blackish brown, with external margins above edged with yellowish citrine, inner webs on 5 outermost strontian yellow, except at extreme tip on 3 outermost, and except for the extreme tip and a narrow line along the shaft in the fourth and fifth, the sixth (central) having a very narrow edging only of strontian yellow; sides of neck, adjacent to the brown of head, wax yellow; under surface clear brilliant yellow between lemon chrome and light cadmium, streaked heavily on breast, sides and flanks with chestnut, the streakings heaviest on chest where they expand anteriorly to merge in the chestnut of the foreneck; edge of wing light cadmium; under wing-coverts lemon chrome; inner webs of primaries and secondaries extensively strontian yellow. Bill brownish black, tarsus and toes brown (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Males (11 specimens) wing 65.7–71.7 (68.9), tail 50.2–55.3 (52.2), culmen from base 13.7–14.7 (13.9), tarsus 20.8–22.1 (21.6) mm.

Females (5 specimens), wing 62.5–67.1 (64.5), tail 46.2–53.5 (50.8), culmen from base 12.7–13.6 (13.2), tarsus 20.0–22.0 (20.9) mm.

Type, male, wing 70.7, tail 55.3, culmen from base 14.7, tarsus 22.1 mm.

Range.—The Guajira Peninsula, northeastern Colombia and northwestern Venezuela (Bahía Portete, Puerto López, Castilletes, Paraguipoa).

Remarks.—The present bird, beautiful in the contrast of its rich yellow and deep chestnut markings, represents the maximum in pigmentation among the chestnut-capped group of golden warblers. The deepened color reaches its greatest extent in specimens in the region from Puerto López to Paraguipoa. At Bahía Portete the color lightens toward the condition characteristic of *erithachorides* so that birds from this point must be considered intermediate. There seem to be no records at present for birds of this group between Punto Caimán on Isla Salamanca on the northern edge of the Ciénaga Grande and Bahía Portete, La Guajira. Colonies may exist in this considerable area, but the birds seem to be rare. We searched for it at the mouth of the Río Ranchería at Ríohacha without success.

While the brown-hooded forms of the golden warbler group stand out conspicuously from those with the head and throat yellow, so that for a long period they have been accepted as specifically distinct, in recent years material has come to hand indicating that the two groups merge. The brown-headed subspecies range along both coasts of México, Central America, and northwestern South America, with one outlying population

on the island of Martinique in the Lesser Antilles. This distribution cuts off *Dendroica petechia aureola*, of Cocos Island and the Galápagos, and *D. d. peruana* of southern Colombia, Ecuador and Perú, from the other subspecies to which they appear most similar. In *peruana* we find, however, one approach to the brown-hooded state, as in highly colored males there is often a decided wash of chestnut brown across the cheeks and throat. Proceeding eastward in northwestern Venezuela, males of *D. p. paraguanae* of the Paraguaná Peninsula have the sides of the head yellowish, so that here again there is an intermediate stage. These two separate approaches are so significant as to justify treatment of all of the races under one specific name. Between them it is interesting to note that all male birds are completely hooded, and that in the Guajira Peninsula the brown head attains the deepest, richest color known.